

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the following paragraph, found in the original specification starting on Page 3, line 19, and ending on Page 4, line 6:

Generally, systems and subsystems with updateable firmware typically require some sort of verification to determine applicability of a candidate image to an existing installation. Conventional methods quite often amount to nothing more than verifying some or all of the following: (i) a company's copyright notice exists in the candidate image; (ii) a part number in a recognizable form and position exists in the candidate image; (iii) a "type code" exists in the candidate image in a recognizable form and position and the type code indicates that the old and new images are compatible (type codes identify compatible types of hardware and may be applied to the overall product or to subsystems within the product); (iv) a revision level exists in the candidate image and that the user is attempting to apply a newer image over an older image; and (v) the candidate image has not been corrupted, e.g., verified by using a checksum or CRC. Items (i), (ii), and (iv) above do little (if anything) to aid in verifying compatibility between firmware images. They allow software utilities to verify that the firmware images came from a single vendor and that the user is not attempting to regress to an older firmware image. Even then, there are times when it may be desirable to regress so that a warning with a mechanism to override ~~[[ths]]~~ the protection is usually provided.